

General

Title

Intensive care unit (ICU) palliative care: presence of room designated for meetings between clinicians and ICU families.

Source(s)

VHA Inc. TICU care and communication bundle: care and communication quality measures. Irving (TX): VHA Inc.; 2006 Sep 15. 8 p.

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain

Structure

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to assess the presence of room designated for meetings between clinicians and intensive care unit (ICU) families.

Rationale

Palliative care focuses on prevention and relief of suffering, improving communication, promoting concordance between treatment and individual preferences, and facilitating transitions across care settings for patients with life threatening illness and their families. As such, it is increasingly accepted as an integral component of comprehensive intensive care unit (ICU) care for all critically ill patients, including those pursuing every reasonable treatment to prolong life. At the same time, evidence has

accumulated that the quality of ICU palliative care needs improvement: patients experience high levels of pain and other distressing symptoms; families fail to understand basic information about diagnosis, prognosis, or critical care treatments and experience high levels of depression and anxiety; care plans diverge from patients' and families' preferences; and conflict among ICU clinicians, patients, and families is common.

The Institute of Medicine identified improvement of palliative care in the ICU and other care settings as a national health priority. For all healthcare providers and fields, it has also prioritized "closing the gap" between the current knowledge of optimal care and current clinical practice.

This measure is one of ten measures included in a palliative care bundle intended to close the "quality gap" between existing best evidence and current daily practice.

Primary Clinical Component

Intensive care unit (ICU); critical care; palliative care; communication; family meeting room

Denominator Description

This measure applies to intensive care units (ICUs) (one unit at a time).

Numerator Description

A Family Meeting Room* is present (Yes/No).

Note: Family Meeting Room is a dedicated space used only for meetings with ICU family members.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality

A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Need for the Measure

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use

Current routine use

Current Use

Collaborative inter-organizational quality improvement

Internal quality improvement

Quality of care research

Application of Measure in its Current Use

Care Setting

Hospitals

Professionals Responsible for Health Care

Measure is not provider specific

Lowest Level of Health Care Delivery Addressed

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

Target Population Age

Does not apply to this measure

Target Population Gender

Does not apply to this measure

Stratification by Vulnerable Populations

Does not apply to this measure

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

Incidence/Prevalence

Unspecified

Association with Vulnerable Populations

Unspecified

Burden of Illness

See the "Rationale" field.

Utilization

Unspecified

Costs

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

Not within an IOM Care Need

IOM Domain

Not within an IOM Domain

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Sampling Frame

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

This measure applies to intensive care units (ICUs) (one unit at a time).

Exclusions

Unspecified

Relationship of Denominator to Numerator

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator (Index) Event

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Time Window

Does not apply to this measure

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

A Family Meeting Room* is present (Yes/No).

Note: Family Meeting Room is a dedicated space used only for meetings with ICU family members.

Exclusions

Unspecified

Measure Results Under Control of Health Care Professionals, Organizations and/or Policymakers

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

Numerator Time Window

Unspecified

Data Source

Provider data

Level of Determination of Quality

Does not apply to this measure

Pre-existing Instrument Used

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

Scoring

Categorical Variable

Interpretation of Score

Passing score defines better quality

Allowance for Patient Factors

Unspecified

Standard of Comparison

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

Extent of Measure Testing

Pilot implementation in a total of 19 intensive care units (ICUs) showed that the measures are feasible and usable and that opportunities exist for quality improvement. Refer to the article by Nelson, et al. for details.

Evidence for Reliability/Validity Testing

Nelson JE, Mulkerin CM, Adams LL, Pronovost PJ. Improving comfort and communication in the ICU: a practical new tool for palliative care performance measurement and feedback. Qual Saf Health Care. 2006 Aug;15(4):264-71. [52 references] [PubMed](#)

Identifying Information

Original Title

Quality indicator #10: family meeting room.

Measure Collection Name

Transformation of the Intensive Care Unit (TICU) Measures

Measure Set Name

Care and Communication Quality Measures

Submitter

Vizient, Inc. - For Profit Organization

Developer

Vizient, Inc. - For Profit Organization

Funding Source(s)

Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

Internal VHA, Inc. clinical subject matter experts along with external clinical subject matter faculty experts from various National and local research medical centers/hospitals

Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

None; work was not supported by any third party vendors, contractors or for-profit health care companies including suppliers, device makers, or pharmaceutical firms.

Adaptation

Measure was not adapted from another source.

Release Date

2006 Sep

Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

The VHA, Inc. reaffirmed the currency of this measure in October 2010.

Source(s)

VHA Inc. TICU care and communication bundle: care and communication quality measures. Irving (TX): VHA Inc.; 2006 Sep 15. 8 p.

Measure Availability

The individual measure, "Quality Indicator #10: Family Meeting Room," is published in "TICU Care and Communication Bundle: Care and Communication Quality Measures."

For more information, contact VHA, Inc. at: 220 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039; Phone: 1-800-842-5146 or 1-972-830-0626; Web site: www.vha.com .

Companion Documents

The following are available:

VHA, Inc. TICU care & communication bundle: data collection sheet. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2006 Sep 15. 1 p.

VHA, Inc. TICU care & communication bundle: care and communication quality measures form. Irving (TX): VHA, Inc.; 2006 Sep 15. 2 p.

For more information, contact VHA, Inc. at: 220 E. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving, TX 75039; Phone: 1-800-842-5146 or 1-972-830-0626; Web site: www.vha.com .

NQMC Status

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI on June 27, 2007. The information was verified by the measure developer on July 25, 2007. The information was reaffirmed by the measure developer on October 15, 2010.

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